

Amendments In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 24-29, 33-35, 39-41, 44-47 and 51-53 as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of arranging a plurality of objects, said method comprising:
 - setting a class hierarchy, wherein
 - the class hierarchy comprises an upper level class and a lower level class[[,]] ; ~~and~~
 - ~~the objects are members of at least one of the upper level class and the lower level class;~~
 - assigning a first attribute to the upper level class, wherein
 - the first attribute describes ~~the~~ each object[[s]] of the plurality of objects;
 - inheriting of the first attribute by the lower level class, wherein
 - the first attribute is within a first domain with regard to the upper level class,
 - the first attribute is within a second domain with regard to the lower level class,
 - a second domain value set of the second domain is smaller than a first domain value set of the first domain, and
 - the first attribute is restricted to the second domain value set upon the inheriting;
 - assigning a second attribute to the lower level class, wherein
 - the second attribute describes ~~an~~ each object of the plurality of objects associated with the lower level class;
 - associating an object of the plurality of objects with a chosen class, wherein the chosen class is one of the upper level class and the lower level class, and

the chosen class is chosen such that, for the object, every attribute assigned to the chosen class has a non-null value used to describe the object; and

~~choosing a class with which to associate an object, wherein~~

~~the class is chosen such that every attribute associated with the class has a non-null value used to describe the object; and~~

said method is performed by a processor configured to perform said method.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 1, further comprising:

superseding said first attribute of said upper level class by assigning a third attribute to the lower level class, wherein the third attribute describes an object that is associated with the lower level class.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 1, wherein the first attribute comprises a distinctive domain value set.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 1, wherein the class hierarchy further comprises a third class below the lower level class in the class hierarchy, and further comprising:

inheriting of the first attribute and the second attribute by the third class.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 1, further comprising:

expanding the class hierarchy horizontally by adding a fourth class to the lower level class; and

inheriting of the first attribute by the fourth class.

6. (Currently Amended) A hierarchical class architecture of objects stored in a memory, said hierarchical class architecture comprising:

an upper level class;

a lower level class, wherein the upper and lower level classes are stored in the memory;

a first domain value set of a first domain of the upper level class;

a second domain value set of a second domain;

a first attribute, wherein

the first attribute is assigned to the upper level class,

the first attribute is within the first domain,

the first attribute is within the second domain,

~~the objects are members of at least one of the upper level class and the lower level class,~~

the first attribute describes each the object[[s]],

the lower level class is configured to inherit the first attribute,

the second domain value set is smaller than the first domain value set, and

the first attribute is restricted to the second domain value set upon the first attribute being inherited by the lower level class; and

a second attribute, wherein

the second attribute is assigned to the lower level class,

the second attribute is within the second domain, and

the second attribute describes each an object associated with the lower level class, and

each object in the hierarchical class architecture of objects is associated with a chosen class within the class hierarchy, wherein

the chosen class is one of the upper level class and the lower level class, and

the class is chosen such that, for each object associated with the chosen class, every attribute assigned to ~~associated with~~ the chosen class has a non-null value used to describe the object.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The hierarchical class architecture of claim 6, further comprising:
an additional attribute, wherein
the additional attribute is assigned to the lower level class, and
the **additional** attribute describes **each** ~~an~~ object **associated with** ~~in~~ the lower level class.
8. **(Previously Presented)** The hierarchical class architecture of claim 6, wherein the first attribute comprises a distinctive domain value set.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The hierarchical class architecture of claim 6, further comprising:
a third class, wherein
the third class is below the lower level class in the hierarchical class architecture, and
the third class is configured to inherit the first attribute and the second attribute.
10. **(Previously Presented)** The hierarchical class architecture of claim 6, wherein
the lower level class is configured to be expanded horizontally by virtue of being configured to provide for addition of a fourth class, and
the fourth class is configured to inherit the first attribute.
11. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system comprising:
a processor;
a computer readable medium coupled to the processor; and
computer code, encoded in the computer readable medium, configured to cause the processor to:
set a class hierarchy, wherein

the class hierarchy comprises an upper level class and a lower level class; ~~and~~

~~the objects are members of at least one of the upper level class and the lower level class;~~

assign a first attribute to the upper level class, wherein

the first attribute describes each ~~the~~ object[[s]] of a plurality of objects;

provide inheritance of the first attribute by the lower level class, wherein

the first attribute is within a first domain with regard to the upper level class,

the first attribute is within a second domain with regard to the lower level class,

a second domain value set of the second domain is smaller than a first domain value set of the first domain, and

the first attribute is restricted to the second domain value set upon the inheritance of the attribute by the lower level class;

assign a second attribute to the lower level class, wherein

the second attribute describes each ~~an~~ object of the plurality of objects that is associated with the lower level class; and

associate an object of the plurality of objects with a chosen class

~~choose a class with which to associate an object~~, wherein

the chosen class is one of the upper level class and the lower level class, and

the class is chosen such that, for the object, every attribute assigned to ~~associated with~~ the chosen class has a non-null value used to describe the object.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:

assign a third attribute to the lower level class, the third attribute describes each
~~describing an~~ object of the plurality of objects that is associated with
~~that is a member of~~ the lower level class.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the first attribute comprises a distinctive domain value set.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 11, wherein ~~the class hierarchy further comprises a third class below the lower level class in the class hierarchy, and~~ the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:
 provide inheritance of the first attribute and the second attribute by a ~~the~~ third class, wherein
the third class is below the lower level class in the class hierarchy.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:
 expand the class hierarchy horizontally by adding a fourth class to the lower level class; and
 provide inheritance of the first attribute by the fourth class.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for arranging objects comprising:
 means for setting a class hierarchy, wherein
 the class hierarchy comprises an upper level class and a lower level class[,]
~~and~~
~~the objects are members of at least one of the upper level class and the lower level class;~~
 means for assigning a first attribute to the upper level class, wherein the first attribute describes each ~~the~~ object[s];
 means for inheriting of the first attribute by the lower level class, wherein

the first attribute is within a first domain with regard to the upper level class,
the first attribute is within a second domain with regard to the lower level class,
a second domain value set of the second domain is smaller than a first domain value set of the first domain, and
the first attribute is restricted to the second domain value set by the means for inheriting;

means for assigning a second attribute to the lower level class, wherein the second attribute describes each object[[s]] associated with the lower level class; and

means for associating an object with a chosen class ~~choosing a class with which to associate an object~~, wherein the chosen class is one of the upper level class and the lower level class, and

the class is chosen such that, for the object, every attribute assigned to ~~associated with the~~ chosen class has a non-null value used to describe the object.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
means for superseding said first attribute of said upper level class comprising
means for assigning a third attribute to the lower level class, wherein
the third attribute describes an object that is associated with the lower level class.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first attribute comprises a distinctive domain value set.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 16, ~~wherein the class hierarchy further comprises a third class below the lower level class in the class hierarchy, and~~ further comprising:

means for inheriting of the first attribute and the second attribute by ~~a~~ the third class, wherein
the third class is below the lower level class in the class hierarchy.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
 means for expanding the class hierarchy horizontally by adding a fourth class to the lower level class; and
 means for inheriting of the first attribute by the fourth class.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product, encoded in computer readable media, comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to set a class hierarchy, wherein
 the class hierarchy comprises an upper level class and a lower level class[[,]] **and**
~~the objects are members of at least one of the upper level class and the lower level class;~~

a second set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to assign a first attribute to the upper level class, wherein the first attribute describes each ~~the~~ object[[s]] of a plurality of objects;

a third set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to provide inheritance of the first attribute by the lower level class, wherein the first attribute is within a first domain with regard to the upper level class,

the first attribute is within a second domain with regard to the lower level class,

a second domain value set of the second domain is smaller than a first domain value set of the first domain, and

the first attribute is restricted to the second domain value set by the third set of instructions;

a fourth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to assign a second attribute to the lower level class, wherein the second attribute describes each an object of the plurality of objects that is associated with the lower level class; and

a fifth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to associate an object of the plurality of objects with a chosen class ~~choose a class with which to associate an object~~, wherein the chosen class is one of the upper level class and the lower level class, and

the class is chosen such that, for the object, every attribute associated with the chosen class has a non-null value used to describe the object.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

a sixth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to supersede said first attribute of said upper level class by virtue of being configured to assign a third attribute to the lower level class, the third attribute describing an object that is associated with the lower level class.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the first attribute comprises a distinctive domain value set.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21, ~~wherein the class hierarchy further comprises a third class below the lower level class in the class hierarchy, and~~ further comprising:

a sixth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to provide inheritance of the first attribute and the second attribute by a the third class, wherein the third class is below the lower level class in the class hierarchy.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:
- ~~a~~ **an** sixth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to expand the class hierarchy horizontally by adding a fourth class to the lower level class; and
 - a seventh set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to provide inheritance of the first attribute by the fourth class.
26. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 1, further comprising:
- associating the upper level class with the first domain value set, and
 - associating the lower level class with the second domain value set.
27. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 26, wherein
- ~~a third~~ **another** attribute is within the second domain.
28. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 27, wherein
- the ~~third~~ **another** attribute is an overriding attribute.
29. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~arranging objects of~~ claim 27, further comprising:
- superceding the **first** attribute with the ~~third~~ **another** attribute, wherein the superceding is performed if the second domain is different from the first domain.
- 30-32. Cancelled.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The hierarchical class architecture ~~of objects~~ of claim 6, further comprising:

~~a third another~~ attribute, wherein the ~~third another~~ attribute is ~~another attribute~~ within the second domain.

34. **(Currently Amended)** The hierarchical class architecture ~~of objects~~ of claim 33, wherein

the ~~third another~~ attribute is an overriding attribute.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The hierarchical class architecture ~~of objects~~ of claim 33, wherein

the ~~third another~~ attribute is configured to supercede the first attribute, and the ~~third another~~ attribute is configured to supercede[[s]] the first attribute if the second domain is different from the first domain.

36-37. Cancelled.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:

associate the upper level class with the first domain value set, and
associate the lower level class with the second domain value set.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 38, wherein ~~a third another~~ attribute is within the second domain.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 39, wherein the ~~third another~~ attribute is an overriding attribute.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 39, wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:

supercede the first attribute with the ~~third another~~ attribute, if the second domain is different from the first domain.

42-43. Cancelled.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising, ~~wherein the computer code is further configured to cause the processor to:~~
means for associating ~~associate~~ the upper level class with the first domain value set; ~~[[,]]~~ and
means for associating ~~associate~~ the lower level class with the second domain value set.

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein
a third ~~another~~ attribute is within the second domain.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein
the third ~~another~~ attribute is an overriding attribute.

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:
means for superceding the first attribute with the third ~~another~~ attribute, wherein
the superceding is performed if the second domain is different from the
first domain.

48-49. Cancelled.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

a sixth set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to
associate the upper level class with the first domain value set; and
a seventh set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to
associate the lower level class with the second domain value set.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 50,
wherein
a third ~~another~~ attribute is within the second domain.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 51, wherein

the third ~~another~~ attribute is an overriding attribute.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 51, further comprising:

an eighth ~~a twelfth~~ set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to supercede the first attribute with the third ~~another~~ attribute, if the second domain is different from the first domain.

54-55. Cancelled.